

Application and Testimonials

OF

GEORGE WILLIAMSON M'MILLAN

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. CAMBRIDGE

Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Lanark District Asylum, Hartwood

Late Assistant Medical Officer, Argyll and Bute District Asylum  
Lochgilphead

FOR THE POST OF

*MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ARGYLL  
AND BUTE DISTRICT ASYLUM  
LOCHGILPHEAD*



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LANARK DISTRICT ASYLUM,  
HARTWOOD, *16th September, 1908*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to apply for the post of Medical Superintendent of the Argyll and Bute District Asylum, rendered vacant by the lamented death of Dr. Cameron. In support of that application I submit the following facts of my Medical history, and append testimonials from Medical gentlemen to whom I am personally known.

I am a native of Midlothian and of Highland extraction, and I am thirty years of age. After professional study at the University of Glasgow, I graduated Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in July, 1901. On graduating, I devoted a year to the special study of Public Health work, and in October, 1902, I was successful in obtaining the Diploma in Public Health of the University of Cambridge. I then engaged in General Practice till July, 1903, when I was appointed to the post of Assistant Medical Officer in the Argyll and Bute District Asylum, where I remained till the end of February, 1907, when I received my present appointment.

At the Argyll and Bute Asylum, where I was Assistant for nearly four years, I acquired an intimate knowledge of the work in the various departments of the Asylum. I was thoroughly introduced to all the details of administration by the late Dr. Cameron, and on several occasions acted in his absence, and always to his satisfaction. When I applied for my present post, Dr. Cameron in his testimonial referred to me as follows: "During my experience, which extends over a period of upwards of thirty years, I have never had a more efficient, agreeable, or trustworthy Assistant, or one of whom I had a higher opinion."

At the Lanark District Asylum, Hartwood, which is the second largest of the Scottish District Asylums, and where I am at present Senior Assistant Medical Officer, there is accommodation for 980 Patients. The yearly admissions average about 260, and from this admission rate it is therefore evident that I have had a large experience of all forms of Insanity. Here, also, I have had exceptional opportunities of familiarising myself with the administrative methods, and have taken the place of Dr. Kerr, the Medical



Superintendent, on several occasions during his absence. I have always taken a keen interest in the outdoor employment of the Patients, especially in connection with the Asylum Farm, the working of which forms a very important part of the management of this Asylum.

In May of this year I was an applicant for the post of Medical Superintendent of the Inverness District Asylum, and appended hereto is a copy of the testimonial which was given me by the late Dr. Cameron in support of that application.

The Public Health qualification which I possess implies that I have a sound acquaintance with such matters as General Sanitation, Building Construction, Meat Inspection, Water Supply, Disposal of Sewage, etc., a knowledge of which is most helpful in the administration of a large Institution such as an Asylum.

As an old servant of the Argyll and Bute District Board of Lunacy, I have only to add that if you do me the high honour to appoint me to the post for which I apply, I shall do everything in my power to safeguard the interests entrusted to me, and to deal kindly and to the utmost of my ability with your Patients.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE W. M'MILLAN.



*From* NEIL T. KERR, M.B., C.M. (Edin.), *Medical Superintendent, Lanark District Asylum, Hartwood.*

LANARK DISTRICT ASYLUM,  
HARTWOOD, 12th September, 1908.

I TESTIFY with great pleasure to the qualifications and personal character of DR. GEORGE W. M'MILLAN, who has been Senior Assistant Medical Officer in this Asylum since 23rd February, 1907. During his time here he has had charge of both Male and Female Divisions of the Asylum, and has acquitted himself with admirable tact, discretion, and ability, his punctuality, promptness and energy being most praiseworthy. He has pursued his Clinical work with great success, and in view of the large amount of material supplied by this institution, which accommodates 980 Patients, his experience of Insanity must necessarily be great. He is also a very capable administrator. When absent on holiday, he is left in full charge of the Asylum, and he has always carried on the work to my entire satisfaction. He will, in my opinion, make an excellent Medical Superintendent, and I have every confidence in recommending him to the Members of the Argyll and Bute District Board of Lunacy.

He had about four years' Asylum experience before he came here, at the Argyll and Bute District Asylum, Lochgilphead.

He came highly recommended by Dr. Cameron.

NEIL T. KERR.







*From JOHN CAMERON, M.D. (Edin.), Medical Superintendent, Argyll and Bute District Asylum, Lochgilphead.*

ARGYLL AND BUTE DISTRICT ASYLUM,  
LOCHGILPHEAD, 11th May, 1908.

WHEN DR. GEORGE WILLIAMSON M'MILLAN was a Candidate for his present appointment, I sent the following letter of recommendation to Dr. Kerr :

ARGYLL AND BUTE ASYLUM,  
LOCHGILPHEAD, 21st January, 1907.

DEAR DR. KERR,

DR. M'MILLAN has informed me that he is about to apply for the Senior Assistantship at Hartwood Asylum.

I can recommend him with the utmost confidence, and cannot speak too highly of his professional ability and devotion to duty. Shortly after he received his present appointment, he gained, and he still retains, the respect and esteem of the other Officials, nor has there ever been the slightest friction between him and any other member of the Staff. During my experience, which extends over a period of upwards of thirty years, I have never had a more efficient, agreeable, or trustworthy Assistant, or one of whom I had a higher opinion.

Yours sincerely,

J. CAMERON.

*P.S.*—The following is an extract from Dr. Fraser, the Senior Commissioner in Lunacy's Report, of date 9th and 10th February, 1906 :  
" The Case-Books and Pathological Records continue to be kept in an admirable manner by Dr. M'Millan, whose zeal and efficiency deserve every commendation."

J. C.

Since the above letter was written Dr. M'Millan has gained further experience in the management and treatment of the Insane as Senior Assistant Medical Officer of one of the largest District Asylums in Scotland, and I know on the best authority that he has discharged his duties there with energy and exactitude.

In consideration of his high character, varied experience, exceptional Professional attainments and marked administrative ability, Dr. M'Millan is, in my opinion, admirably qualified for the Superintendence of a large and important Public Asylum.

J. CAMERON.



THE following are extracts from the Reports of DRS. FRASER and MACPHERSON, H.M. Commissioners in Lunacy, during my residence in the Argyll and Bute Asylum :

DR. FRASER.

- (1) *February*, 1904.—“ The Pathological Journal and the Medical Case-Books are most carefully and intelligently kept by Dr. M'Millan, the Assistant Medical Officer.”
- (2) *January*, 1905.—“ The Pathological Journal, which contains the results of these Autopsies, and the Medical Records in the Case-Books, are kept in a manner which is highly creditable to Dr. M'Millan, Assistant Medical Officer.”
- (3) *February*, 1906.—“ The Case-books and Pathological Records continue to be kept in an admirable manner by Dr. M'Millan, whose zeal and efficiency deserve every commendation.”

DR. MACPHERSON.

- (1) *July*, 1904.—“ The notes of these examinations recorded in a special Register are full, accurate, and carefully transcribed. The Case-Books as at present kept contain admirable accounts of the progress of each Patient under care.”
- (2) *July*, 1905.—“ The details of these examinations are recorded with great care and lucidity by the present Assistant Medical Officer.”
- (3) *July*, 1906.—“ The Case-Books and Pathological Records are written up with great care.”



*From SAMSON GEMMELL, M.D., F.F.P.S.G., Regius Professor of Medicine  
in the University of Glasgow, Physician to the Western Infirmary and  
Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.*

17 WOODSIDE PLACE, CHARING CROSS,  
GLASGOW, 12th September, 1908.

DR. GEORGE W. M'MILLAN was well known to me while he was a Student at Glasgow University. In the Class of Clinical Medicine under my charge in Session 1900-01 he took a distinguished place, gaining a First Class Certificate. He has since his graduation in 1901 devoted himself to Asylum work, and has had an excellent experience. Such a training renders him a very eligible Candidate for the post which he now seeks to secure, and I can recommend him with every confidence to the consideration of those who have the appointment in their hands.

SAMSON GEMMELL.





*From* RALPH STOCKMAN, M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.F.P.S. (Glasg.), *Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the University of Glasgow.*

MATERIA MEDICA DEPARTMENT,  
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW, *12th September, 1908.*

I HAVE much pleasure in supporting the application of MR. GEORGE W. M'MILLAN, M.B., D.P.H., for the position of Medical Superintendent of the Argyll and Bute District Asylum. I am not an expert in lunacy practice, and cannot pretend to gauge Dr. M'Millan's attainments in his specialty, but I knew him as an excellent Student of this University, who further qualified himself in Public Health, and who has now devoted several years to the special work of Mental Diseases and Asylum Management. His past career and personal character seem to me a sufficient guarantee that he would perform in an able and satisfactory manner the duties of the important post for which he is now an Applicant.

RALPH STOCKMAN.





*From* THOMAS BARR, M.D., F.F.P.S. (Glasg.), *Lecturer on Diseases of the Ear, Glasgow University, etc., etc.*

13 WOODSIDE PLACE, CHARING CROSS,  
GLASGOW, 12th September, 1908.

I HAVE pleasure in testifying that DR. GEORGE W. M'MILLAN attended with distinction my University course on Diseases of the Ear during the Summer Session of 1900. As the result of a practical examination he obtained a First Class Certificate of Merit. The sound practical knowledge of Diseases of the Ear thus acquired would, I am sure, prove of great service in an Hospital Appointment such as a District Asylum. Apart from this, I am confident that Dr. M'Millan is a man thoroughly qualified for the post of Superintendent of the Argyll and Bute District Asylum, for which he is now a Candidate, and I wish him every success.

THOMAS BARR.







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